

Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended).

A web expander comprising means for carrying a traveling web having longitudinal slits, means for expanding the width of the traveling web to expand the slits thereby forming openings, and opening control means for uniformly forming the size and shape ~~form~~ of said openings of the web expanded by said means for expanding, said opening control means comprising a rotatable ribbed roll having a plurality of ribs formed on its circumference, the ribbed roll being adapted to be applied to one side of the traveling web to rotate in the direction in which the web is reduced in width.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended).

A web expander according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said ribbed roll has a plurality of oblique grooves made on its circumference.

Claim 4 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 3, wherein said oblique grooves are spiral rib-like ridges.

Claim 5 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 3, wherein said oblique grooves are inclined to be symmetric with respect to the center of the web.

Claim 6 (currently amended).

A web expander according to claim 1 2, wherein said ribbed roll is curved, and is rotated while maintaining a direction of the curved condition.

Claim 7 (currently amended).

A web expander according to claim 1 2, wherein said ribbed roll is straight, and is rotated.

Claim 8 (currently amended).

A web expander according to claim 1 2, wherein two or more ribbed rolls are used.

Claim 9 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 6, wherein two or more ribbed rolls are used.

Claim 10 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 7, wherein two or more ribbed rolls are used.

Claim 11 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 1, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a cloth guider having two rolls so as to grasp one longitudinal edge portion of the web.

Claim 12 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 1, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of a flat expander keeping in contact with one side of the web for expansion, said flat expander having a plurality of parallel rubber strings laterally stretched, a cage roll having a plurality of coiled springs expandable laterally in the direction in which the web is expanded, a bow rubber roll, a bow rod applicator and a screw roll having a screw groove made on its cylindrical surface.

Claim 13 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 1, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a controller for controlling the width of the web.

Claim 14 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 9, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a controller for controlling the width of the web.

Claim 15 (previously presented).

A web expander according to claim 10, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a controller for controlling the width of the web.